GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3088
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
NEW VARIETY OF PEARL MILLET
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists at the International Crops Research Institute of the Semi Arid Tropics have developed a new variety of pearl millet which have higher Vitamin `A` content;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists have found this new variety as naturally growing variety;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage the farmers to grow this variety; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir. Scientists at International Crops Research Institute of the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have developed a yellow seeded pearl millet breeding line which has high vitamin `A` than the normal colour seeded variety.

(b) This yellow seeded line is a selection from African pearl millet variety from Burkina Faso and has stablised for yellow seed character. However this breeding line is photosensitive and late maturing.

(c) The developed breeding line is naturally growing.

(d) & (e) : The cultivation of this breeding line as a variety by the farmers of pearl millet growing regions is not appropriate as it is not adapted for Indian conditions being photosensitive and late maturing.